

# **“WHEN WILL JESUS COME BACK AGAIN? THE SECOND ADVENT.”**

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**Scripture text: I Thessalonians 4:13-18**

## **Introduction.**

Advent is a season of waiting. In this season we are reminded of how the Jews were waiting for a Messiah, or in the words of Anna in the temple, waiting for the consolation or redemption of Israel (Luke 2:28).

We reflect this waiting when we sing O Come, O Come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel.

In a similar way now, Christians are waiting for the second advent/coming of Jesus. Advent is a good time to talk about the second advent of Jesus.

It is also appropriate to talk about the second advent of Jesus at advent because the first advent set in motion all the events that lead to the second advent. The two are closely connected. You can't have one without the other. The first advent will be completed at the second advent.

At the first advent Satan poured all His energy into trying to defeat Jesus. Killing the babies in Bethlehem, trying to trip Jesus up at His temptation, the betrayal of Judas, killing Jesus on the cross. After Jesus' resurrection and ascension, Satan is focusing all his energy on the body of Christ, the church. But know this, Satan is bound and defeated and doomed. Jesus promised that though there would be trials and afflictions the gates of hell would not and will never prevail.

By bound we understand Scripture to mean he is limited, it is as if he is on a leash.

**Matthew 12:28-29** If it is by the Spirit of God that I drive out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. 29 “Or again, how can anyone enter a strong man's house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man? Then he can plunder his house.

**Colossians 2:15** Having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

**Revelation 12:12** [Satan] is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short.

Jesus' own description is clear. There is a strong man and then there is a stronger man who comes to plunder the goods of the strong man. The newcomer assaults and overcomes him and binds him.

This newcomer came at the incarnation and to prove His power began casting out demons and evil spirits. For all his strength, Satan was no match. He still causes lots of trouble, but he is bound in some way.

So, what is going on now and what's going to happen in the end?  
Are we living in the end times or is there a millennial end time yet to come?

### **What will happen at the second advent or second coming of Christ?**

No one will know when, only God knows the day and time and He isn't telling anyone. If someone says they know, they are lying and are like a false prophet.

Someone said we must stop dating Jesus. Meaning stopping trying to fix a date for His return. Jesus doesn't have an expiration date, or a return by date stamped in the Bible.

**First**, Jesus will come suddenly and unexpectedly, like a thief in the night. Remember the Parable of the Ten Virgins waiting for the Bridegroom (see last hymn). Live ready.

**Second**, Jesus will be seen by all and His trumpet will be heard by all. At the trumpet call, the Christian dead will be raised and then along with the Christians on earth, will all be raptured up to join Christ in the air. It will be visible and personal, the Lord Himself will come.

**Third**, Jesus will come back as He left, with angels and through the clouds.

**Acts 1:10-11** They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. 11 "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

**Fourth**, unlike His first advent which was in humiliation, His second advent will be glorious, Christ will come in power and great glory as the glorious conqueror, redeemer of creation, Judge of all, King of kings, Lord of lords (Matt 24:30; Rev. 19:16).

**Fifth**, there will be a rapture. But will it be for seven years during the great tribulation? Will there be a rapture and then a second coming, when we return with Jesus? There will not be two stages, or two returns of Jesus. He came once and He will come back once, not twice.

Christianity in America has been most influenced by the view that Christ is coming back twice. This influence has come from well known dispensational preachers and teachers and by Timothy LaHaye's Left Behind series of books. This view has been touted on radio and TV for decades.

Those books and the movie are based on a particular eschatological viewpoint that has become popular in America in the past hundred and fifty years called dispensational, pretribulational premillennialism. It basically says Christ will secretly come to earth before the great tribulation and rapture the church up and then after the seven years are over Christ will come again with His church to set up His literal 1000-year reign during which. During that time Satan is further bound and the temple reestablished in Jerusalem. Then after that there will be a final end with another resurrection of the unbelievers before the great judgment.

They teach two comings with two resurrections and two judgments, but there will only be one return of Jesus and one resurrection of all the dead and one great judgment as John 5:28-29 plainly says.

**John 5:28-29** Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice 29 and come out—those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned.

In other words, the church is going to be spared from this great suffering that is coming. There will be two comings of Jesus, one to rescue and another one later to judge.

One example of a verse to support this view:

**Revelation 3:10** Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth.

“Keep you from” isn’t about taking us out, but a verse about sparing us, protecting us, keeping us in the midst of the suffering, from faith destroying effects.

**I Peter 4:12** Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.

**I Peter 4:16-17** However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. 17 For it is time for judgment to begin with God’s household; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

God doesn’t spare the church from trials, He spares us in the midst of trials.

**I Peter 1:5-7** through faith [we] are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 7 These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

**James 1:2-4, 12** Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. 4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. ... 12 Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

I Thessalonians 4 is clear there is no pre-tribulational rapture. Nowhere in Scripture do you get any idea that Christians and the church will be spared from any suffering or tribulation. There is one coming, one rapture when we will all rise up to meet the Lord in the air and then come down with Him as He establishes His rule and reign.

“At the time of the second coming there will occur the final resurrection, the final judgment, the end of sin, the end of death, and the creation of the new heavens and new earth.” (Sam Storms).

So, if there is no premillennial return and reign of Christ, followed by a final coming again at the end, then when are the last days and the millennium?

Amillennialism literally means no millennium. That's unfortunate because we do believe in a millennium, just not a literal one. We believe Revelation 20 describes the time between the two advents of our Lord. In other words, we are presently in the end times.

There are only two ages in Scripture, the present age and the age to come. The present age is the last days. Peter quotes Joel in his Pentecost sermon saying:

**Acts 2:17** In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people.

**Hebrews 1:1-2** In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son.

We are in the last days which are a time of tribulation. The wicked and the righteous will both suffer. It started in Acts and will continue all through the history of the church and get worse as the end approaches. The wicked led by the antichrist will oppose the righteous, but we can be confident his time will be relatively short, and he is doomed to fail.

### **What will be the result of the second advent of Christ?**

*First*, the eschatology that Jesus set in motion at His first coming will be completed and consummated at the second coming.

*Second*, complete salvation will come,

**Hebrews 9:28** Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

*Third*, there will be an eternal separation of the righteous and the wicked and Satan will be utterly defeated. The door to the ark will be closed and there will be no more salvation. The saints will be eternally glorified, and the ungodly will be eternally judged.

*Fourth*, history will come to a close and time will be no more. It will be an eternal state which has no end. There will be no calendars or clocks.

## **Application and Conclusion.**

Therefore, encourage each other with these words.

Grieve, yes, but not inordinately, not over much, not like those who have no hope and no future, and no Lord and Savior from sin and death.

Encourage each other with the hope of the resurrection. Encourage each other with the victory of Jesus. Encourage each other with the promise of eternal life. Encourage each other with the glory that is to come. encourage each other that the sting of death is removed, Satan is defeated, hell is vanquished for the saints.

Encourage each other with this future and this hope. Bless each other by speaking of these true and eternal things.

We who believe in the resurrection, we who can declare with confidence, “Christ is risen” are those who have the most hope and the most comfort.

Speak of these things to those who do not share your hope. Give a reason for the hope that is in you. With fear and trembling plead with the souls of the lost. Speak to them, pray for them.

**Revelation 19:1-2** After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, crying out, “Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,  
2 for his judgments are true and just;

Look forward to the day. Long for the coming of Christ. Welcome every thought of that day and what it will be like. Allow yourself from time to time to contemplate what a glorious day it will be. Think about it, prepare for it, plan for it.

**II Timothy 4:7-8** I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

**I Corinthians 2:9** But, as it is written,  
“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined,  
what God has prepared for those who love him.”